(c) whether Government are aware that there are other parties/ companies also which are prepared to import/supply the rigs on contract basis on cheaper rates ; and

(d) if so, whether with a view to save foreign exchange, Government are prepared to negotiate with them, if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) and (b) ONGC has been meeting its requirement of drilling rigs for its ongoing drilling operations by a mix of owned as well as charter hired rigs. Some of the owned rigs are imported and some are indigenously manufactured. Similarly rigs have been charter hired from both foreign as well as Indian companies. The following are the names of foreign companies presently engaged by ONGC for providing drilling services on charter hire basis :—

(i) Reading & Bates Exploration Company, USA.

(ii) Sedco Forex International Drilling Inc., Panama.

(iii) Permargo International Corporation, British West Indies.

In addition, as part of Indo-Soviet Cooperation, M/s. Machinoexport, USSR have also been undertaking drilling operations in Cambay and Cauvery Basins.

(c) and (d) ONGCs system for charter hiring rigs is on the basis of global tenders to ensure internationalily. competitive offers. Indian companies are given price preference in such tenders. As a matter of policy, aH such contracts are awarded by ONGC through global tenders only and not on negotiated basis. Companies offering lower rates are welcome to participate in ONGCs global tenders.

Inclusion of drugs under price control

*158. CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK : SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry have recently included five drugs under price control ;

(b) if so, what are the names of those drugs and what is the rationale therefor ;

(c) whether his Ministry has fixed fair prices of medicines based on these drugs ;

(d) if so, what are the names of those finished medicines, earlier and present price of each ;

(e) whether it is a fact that there are still a number of drugs outside price control which do not fulfil any exclusion criteria ; and

(f) if so, what are the names of such drugs which have come to the notice of his Ministry and by when a decision on them would be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) to (d) Yes ; Sir. On 6-7-1990, the following five more drugs have been included under price control under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987 :—

1. Carbenixolone
2. Diclofenac Sodium
3. Ethisterone
4. Norgestrol
5. Povidone Iodine

BICP has been asked to workout the prices, of formulations based on the above bulk drugs, *suo-moto.*

(e) and (f) The Government has already brought 26 bulk drugs under price control. The Standing Committee constituted by the Department of Chemicals and Petro-che-micals is looking into other cases.

Production of Metranidazole range of formulations

*159. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA :

SHRI H.HANUMANTHAPPA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the prices of Metranidazole range of formulations marketed by May and Baker group of companies ;

(b) whether it is a fact that this company has created small Scale Companies to overcharge the prices of these formulations ;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that May and Baker has purchased large quantities of Metranidazole from outside parties at prices cheaper than notified prices ;

(e) if so, what are the details of purchases made during the last three years, yearwise and at what price ;

(f) what are the names of producers of Metranidazole and what was the production of each during the last three years, yearwise ; and

(g) what was the quantity sold by each to non-associated formulators during the last three years, yearwise and at what price ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) 'Flagyl' is the brand name of Metronidazole based formulations being marketed by M/s. Rhone Poulonc previously known as M/s. May & Baker Ltd. To the extent information available, the names of Metronidazole based formulations and the prices thereof being marketed by M/s. Rhone Poulenc is as under :—

Sl. No.	Name of the Formulation	Pack Size	Price as per MIMS July 1990 (Rs.)
1		10's	3.62
		10's	6.10
2	Flagyl Suspension (Benzyl Metronidazole) .	30 ml Bottle	6.31
		60 ml Bottle	10.16
3		10's	4.55
4	Flagyl F. Suspension	60 ml Bottle	7.95
5	Flagyl I.V. Injection (Metronidazole 500 mg per 100 m !)	100 ml Bottle	13.34